

20th February 2009

Dear Mr Parry,

Land North of Terminus Drive, Pitsea

Planning Ref: 07/00393/FULL

Appeal Ref: APP/V1505/A/08/2063126/NWF

I am writing to formally object to the above planning appeal by the Dale Farm Housing Association. I do so on the following grounds:

- (1) Because of the land's proximity to the flyover and railway, and its general condition partly because of drainage, in my view it is not an ideal location for any sort of residential development.
- (2) I also understand that the Secretary of State for Transport has put a 'Safeguarding Direction' on part of this land, as the intention is to use it as a staging post for the transfer of spoil from the Crossrail project once it starts. This in itself will raise environmental issues for the local community, but it will certainly have an environmental impact on any residential development on the site itself.
- (3) The land does not have a convenient or safe access onto the public highway. You will be well aware that there is already a lot of pressure on our roads due to a growing population, and additional traffic resulting from allowing residential development of this site would have more than a minimum impact on the surrounding area – especially the residential dwellings north of the site.
- (4) I am also concerned that such a development would be detrimental to the safety of pedestrians using footpath 136 over which vehicles would need to pass to gain access. A visit to the site would make this abundantly clear.
- (5) I do not believe that those travellers who lost their Dale Farm appeal should now be rewarded by being granted planning permission to develop the site at Terminus Drive. Instead the travellers from Crays Hill (Dale Farm) should now peacefully move on outside the District, for Basildon Council has done far more than any other Local Authority to provide authorised sites. Indeed, the District has over 100 authorised sites and pitches compared to some neighbouring authorities which have none at all.

This responsibility needs to be shared more fairly. The strength of local opinion in Pitsea against the idea of these travellers moving to Terminus Drive was illustrated in the 5,000 signatures petition I organised and presented to John Prescott when he was Secretary of State for Local Government.

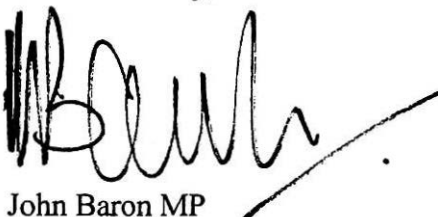
- (6) The issue of 'fairness' needs to be addressed in other ways. If planning permission was granted at Terminus Drive, these travellers would in effect be queue-jumping the many hundreds of people who are waiting patiently on the council's housing waiting list. It would also be unfair on all those local residents who have obeyed planning laws in the past. We must remember that the Dale Farm Housing Association wishing to develop the Terminus Road site are the same travellers who have contravened planning regulations in developing the green belt at Crays Hill.

I should perhaps make clear that no one is looking to discriminate against a minority. But I do believe that all those who live in our community should abide by its rules and regulations:

Could you please ensure that these views are taken into account when you are making your decision, and can you confirm receipt of this letter?

One final point that may be of interest – you may wish to check that the Dale Farm Housing Association is in fact registered as such, as I cannot find any evidence to suggest that this is indeed a social housing association.

Yours sincerely,



John Baron MP

Mr J. Parris
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